



## H.R. 4169 – American Braille Flag Memorial Act

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 4169 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Todd Tiahrt (R-KS) on November 13, 2007. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Veteran's Affairs on November 16, 2007, but was never considered.

H.R. 4169 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on February 13, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.R. 4169 grants authority to the Secretary of the Army to place an American Braille tactile flag in Arlington National Cemetery to honor blind members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and other Americans. The bill grants the Secretary of the Army exclusive authority to approve the design of the flag and designate the site where it will be placed within Arlington National Cemetery.

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### BACKGROUND

The American Braille tactile flag was created by the Kansas Braille Transcription Institute in Wichita, Kansas, to allow blind Americans and blind veterans to experience the American flag.

There are more than 175,000 blind veterans, and the Department of Defense estimates that 16 percent of the members of the Armed Forces who have been injured in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom have severe vision loss as a result of their injuries.

Arlington National Cemetery is visited by over 4,000,000 people annually.

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### COST

This legislation has not been scored by the Congressional Budget Office.

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### STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Justin Hanson at (202) 226-2302.